

Egypt pledges support for Lebanon

Cairo (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Saturday Egypt had promised support for his country's efforts to regain territory occupied by Israel. Mr. Bouez said Lebanon was unable to end Israel's occupation of a border "security zone" through the United Nations. "Egypt expressed an interest in Lebanon's situation and has promised to support Lebanon in regaining its lands," he told reporters, after meeting separately with Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali. Mr. Bouez also met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before Mr. Baker left Cairo Saturday. No details were given of the talks but diplomatic sources said he asked Washington to pressure Israel into withdrawing from the zone. After subduing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas in the south, Lebanon says Israel has no excuse to remain in the south in defiance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which set up the zone in 1965 to stop cross-border guerrilla attacks. Israel says it will not withdraw until all foreign troops, including Syria's 40,000 soldiers, have left Lebanon. Mr. Baker is due in Israel Sunday — the toughest leg of his Middle East tour — to try to persuade the Jewish state to accept an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

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Islamic bloc wins key Gaza election

OCCUPIED GAZA CITY (R) — The Islamic bloc scored an emphatic victory in elections within the Arab Chartered Accountants Society, the largest Palestinian organisation in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. The Islamic bloc, made up of supporters of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad organisation, won seven of the nine seats on the society's board of governors. The other two seats went to supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In the last election 20 months ago, PLO supporters won seven seats and the Islamic bloc two. Palestinian sources said the vote showed that support for the PLO was declining in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where elections for professional organisations are widely seen as demonstrating the strength of various factions. In an election for the chamber of commerce in the West Bank town of Hebron on June 19, the Islamic list won six of the 11 seats. Supporters of the Islamic bloc, including non-accountants, from all over the Gaza Strip celebrated Friday's result, chanting: "Allahu Akbar" and "Victory for Islam." Almost 700 accountants, or 83.8 per cent of those registered, took part in the vote.

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1991, MUHARRAM 9, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

OIC chief arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid will arrive in Amman Sunday on a two-day working visit during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. The talks will deal with the latest developments in the region and ways of reviving and activating joint Islamic action through the OIC. Dr. Gabid will also discuss arrangements for holding an Islamic foreign ministers conference in Turkey next August.

PFLP claims attack in Gaza

DAMASCUS (AP) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has said that its fighters carried out an attack that wounded five Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip. The attackers used grenades and machine guns, resulting in "the wounding and killing of many Israeli soldiers," said a PFLP statement. It added that Israel Radio admitted five soldiers were wounded. In Israel, army officials had reported five soldiers were slightly wounded when two hand grenades were thrown at a military post Thursday in the town of Khan Yunis.

Gulf seas safe from mines'

BAIRAIN (AP) — After destroying more than 1,200 mines in the Gulf's waters, a multinational naval task force has declared the seas safe for shipping. The minesweeping armada has been in the Gulf since April 4 with the job of removing mines off the Iraqi and Kuwait shores. Dieter Leder, commander of the German unit in the nine-nation task force, said he believed the force achieved a 95 per cent success.

Haggling hampers Somali peace talks

DJIBOUTI (R) — Last-minute haggling Saturday among Somali factions over posts in a planned transitional government delayed the end of peace talks for a third day running. Conference sources said a deal to allocate top jobs to three major clans — whose armed wings control much of the country — had apparently run into opposition from delegates from three minor clans also represented at the talks. Djibouti's Foreign Minister Moumin Bahadon Farah announced discussions would continue until Sunday to try to resolve the differences.

Egyptian police kill one and wound two

CAIRO (R) — A refrigerator repair man was killed and his colleague wounded Saturday when police guarding the home of an Egyptian minister mistook them for gunmen and opened fire, witnesses said. They said the repair man rode a motorcycle the wrong way up a one-way street in the residential Dokki area, where Interior Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa lives, and failed to stop when guards ordered them to. The repair man's colleague was carrying a jar filled with grease which at a distance was mistaken for a hand grenade, witnesses said. The repair man died instantly while his colleague and a passer-by were wounded.

U.S. to sell arms to Morocco, Egypt and Oman

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it plans to sell \$546 million worth of weapons to Oman, Egypt and Morocco, including 20 F-16s to modernise Morocco's air force. All three Arab countries were supporters of the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war. U.S. defence officials said Congress was expected to allow the sales to become official in 30 days without objection. Morocco would get 20 used F-16s from U.S. air force stocks for \$250 million. Oman would purchase 119 armoured vehicles for \$150 million and Egypt would get modernisation kits for 12 Hawk anti-aircraft missile batteries for \$146 million.

Bush expects Israel to accept peace talks

Baker visits S. Arabia after enlisting Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese support

Combined agency dispatches

As U.S. Secretary of State James Baker took his latest Middle East peace mission to Saudi Arabia Saturday, President George Bush said that he expected Israel to agree to peace talks already accepted by key Arab states.

Mr. Baker, who flew to Jeddah from Cairo after enlisting the support of Syria, Egypt and Lebanon for his efforts to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks, is expected to face tough opposition from Israeli leaders who he will meet Sunday after talks in Jordan.

Addressing a press conference in Ankara, Turkey, President Bush said that Mr. Baker had received positive signs in Syria and Egypt for U.S. ideas for a peace conference.

"I believe in my heart of hearts that when this is explained on his last stop, when this is explained in Israel, that all countries will see that it is in their interest to come forward and talk peace. And that's what this is all about," Mr. Bush said.

"We think we've put forward some good ideas. I'm very sure that certain countries have now seen that there is merit in these ideas and I hope that all of them will."

Israel has so far poured cold water on U.S. attempts to bring Israelis and Arabs together. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak have accepted the

U.S. compromise ideas.

Mr. Bush said Mr. Baker, now on his fifth regional mission since the Gulf war ended in February, had worked tirelessly for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I think the world is crying out for a peaceful solution in the Middle East. As long as I've known (Turkish President) Turgut Ozal, he has told me you must help solve this problem, and that's exactly what we are trying to do," Mr. Bush said.

Lebanon joined Syria and Egypt in agreeing to participate in peace talks with Israel. Lebanon demanded that the expansion of Israeli troops from a border buffer zone be placed on the agenda.

Mr. Baker lined up Lebanon's support for the peace conference in talks in Cairo with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez. Mr. Baker then flew to Jeddah to see King Fahd and Prince Saud, the Saudi foreign minister.

Saudi Arabia earlier in the year ruled out direct participation in negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But the Saudis and five other Gulf countries said they would be willing to attend talks with Israel on such subjects as scarce water resources, the environment and proliferation of weapons.

The proposed peace conference would be sponsored jointly by the United States and the Soviet Union.

A non-voting United Nations observer would participate in the discussion. Mr. Baker responded with a flat "no" when asked in Cairo whether he had an indication of what Israeli leaders would tell him Sunday night.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has tried to keep the United Nations out of the talks. He has not seen a text of Syria's acceptance of U.S. terms.

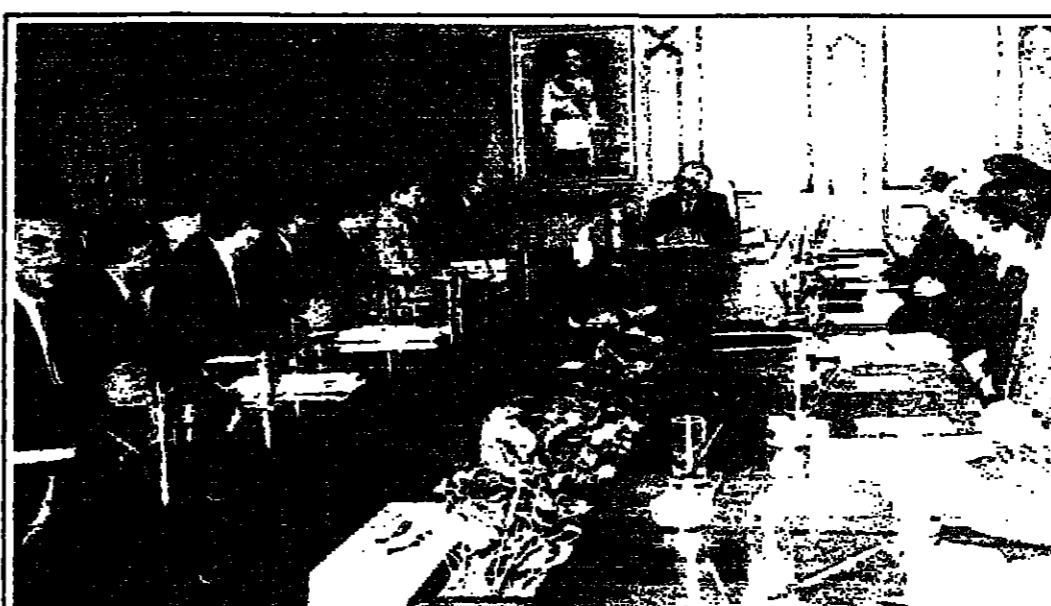
Mr. Baker, asked what message he would take to Israel, said: "I would hope that I would be able to convince the Israelis that there are Arab states that are ready for direct negotiations with Israel."

Saudi Arabia has said that Syria's acceptance of the U.S. peace proposals "emanated from the concern of the Syrian leadership for the security and stability of the region and for pushing forward the peace process."

When Mr. Baker stepped off the plane in Jeddah, he was greeted by Prince Saudi Al Faisal, the foreign minister, and Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the ambassador to Washington.

At stake now is whether the Saudi leadership will go along with the proposal put forward by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the presence of Mr. Baker — that the Arabs drop their economic boycott of Israel if Israel froze its building of new settlements on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There has been no public statement by Saudi or Gulf officials on the proposal.



ENHANCING DEMOCRACY:

His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited the Prime Ministry, conferred with Prime Minister Taher Masri, then chaired a Cabinet meeting. The King reviewed with the Cabinet the latest developments in the Arab arena and the current

state of Arab affairs. King Hussein reiterated Jordan's policies with regard to Arab ties. He said that Jordan is presenting an example for freedom, democracy and pluralism in the Arab World. The King stressed the importance of preserving democracy by enhancing democratic institutions (Petra photo)

PLO approves meeting with Baker

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has approved a meeting between three Palestinians and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the latter's visit to occupied Jerusalem, a spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman said that Faisal Husseini and Dr. Zakaria Agha and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi would meet Mr. Baker Sunday night.

Arafat confident

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Saturday that the PLO was expert at survival and would reemerge from its current international isolation.

"We will always exist (because) ... we are proven experts at survival. Attempts were made before to liquidate the Palestinians and yet we are still here," the PLO chairman told the Paris daily *Le Figaro*.

"Remember in 1979, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter's advisers said 'bye-bye PLO'? And in 1982 during the Lebanon war when the Israelis and their allies said the same thing?"

"(Now as then) ... we will reemerge from the pit where we find ourselves today and we will be stronger than before."

Mr. Arafat was answering questions about the PLO's current status after the loss of military bases in Lebanon and financial hardships incurred because Gulf states cut off aid when the PLO supported Iraq in the Gulf war.

Mr. Arafat acknowledged that the PLO had been "the ones who had lost the most" as a result of the war.

But he said that "attempts" by such countries as Syria — at odds with Mr. Arafat for years — to provoke splits in the PLO's ranks would be no more successful now than in the past.

Jordan to tell Baker ball is no longer in Arab court

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordanian leaders will today tell U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Arab side has already proven its keenness for a just and comprehensive peace settlement with Israel and would like to see American pressure applied on the Jewish state to drop its intransigence.

Prince Taher Masri, who will arrive here from Saudi Arabia and will go to Israel later in the day, has already visited Egypt and Syria, where he described acceptance of American compromise proposals for peace as very positive.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Taher Masri are expected to meet Mr. Baker and reaffirm Jordan's willingness to play its role in the peace process involving all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem as long as the prime objective of peace talks is the implementation of key United Nations resolutions and the return of the occupied Arab territories.

"They were interfering with the efforts of the U.N. to set up humanitarian centres and to bring relief in the south," said Britain's ambassador, Sir David Hannay.

Prince Sadruddin said Monday that Iraqi authorities had ordered U.N. staff out of Hammam, at the edge of the marshes, saying their presence was no longer necessary as they had finished distributing food aid.

United Nations officials said Friday up to 500 people had been either killed or wounded in two days of renewed clashes between Kurdish rebels and government forces. A Kurdish leader put the casualty figure at 100.

Iraq said the fighting around the cities of Sulaimaniyah and Erbil was the work of Iranian infiltrators.

Iraqi troops returned to marshes near the southern border with Iran

only days after a U.N. mission visited the area to check reports that Shiite Muslims had sought shelter there, diplomats said.

The U.S., French and British ambassadors summoned Iraqi Ambassador Abd al-Aziz Al Janabi Friday to protest the redeployment, which included the emplacement of machine gun nests and checkpoints in the marshes.

"They were interfering with the efforts of the U.N. to set up humanitarian centres and to bring relief in the south," said Britain's ambassador, Sir David Hannay.

Prince Sadruddin's letter said U.N. observers had noted gun emplacements every 50 metres along the lakeside and checkpoints every 500

meters.

"It was Israel which was even objecting to the principle of the participation of the U.N. in a peace conference," Mr. Masri said.

"Now I think the hard job for Mr. Baker lies in Israel and we will see how he will react to the

Israeli stand," he said.

The prime minister reaffirmed that Jordan insisted on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, "allowing the Palestinians a true participation in any negotiations."

Prince Taher Masri said Friday that Syria's acceptance of the proposals made by U.S. President George Bush has given a new momentum to peace efforts and diplomacy.

Prince Taher Masri, speaking to reporters at Parliament Thursday, said Mr. Baker faces the most difficult task in his mission when he meets Israeli leaders.

"The positive Syrian response has proven again that Israel is the obstacle to peace," Mr. Masri said.

The prime minister noted that the Arabs had always indicated willingness to play its role in the peace process involving all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem as long as the prime objective of peace talks is the implementation of key United Nations resolutions and the return of the occupied Arab territories.

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"Now I think the hard job for Mr. Baker lies in Israel and we will see how he will react to the

(Continued on page 2)

Powell: Renewed force against Iraq possible

HELSINKI, (Agencies) —

General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Saturday renewed use of force against Iraq was possible, but added that he hoped it could be avoided.

Asked on his arrival in Finland Monday for a six-day visit to Moscow, where he will hold talks with Soviet Chief of Armed Forces Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev.

Iraq, under threat of renewed U.S. bombing unless it complies with ceasefire terms and bares all its nuclear secrets, admitted to the United Nations Friday it had built a 350-mm calibre supergun with 338 such guns.

It said the condition of the gun "has been tested" at Jabal Hamrayn, 180 kilometres north of Baghdad.

He said he hoped United Nations pressure would convince Baghdad that it was in its best interests to comply fully with all resolutions.

Asked on his arrival in Finland Monday for an unofficial visit whether force would again be necessary, he said: "We certainly hope not."

"Nevertheless there is always that possibility but it is something we would wish to avoid," he told a news conference.

"We are not looking for additional armed conflict in the region but we must also be totally committed to the proposition that the region will not be safe until the government of Iraq completely complies with the U.N. resolution.

The daily, which has close contacts with France's most senior officials and sometimes accused of floating "trial balloons" for the government, now gets \$300 million in annual assistance.

Mr. Bush was expected to seek allied pledges to help Turkey recoup losses.

Mr. Ozal thanked the United States and the countries of the Gulf for the \$3 billion they had given Turkey to compensate it for losses resulting from the allied war with Iraq.

Mr. Bush expressed his gratitude with support for Turkey's military modernisation and with a pledge that the United States would provide trade and investment.

Mr. Ozal blocked Baghdad's oil exports, massed troops on the border to pin down Iraqi forces and allowed U.S. bombers to use a Turkish base to hit Iraq.

Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, touring a naval base on Cyprus, said he and Mr. Ozal, anxious to shore up his

relations."

He said he hoped United Nations pressure would convince Baghdad that it was in its best interests to comply fully with all resolutions.

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"We are not looking for additional armed conflict in the region but we must also be totally committed to the proposition that the region will not be safe until the government of Iraq completely complies with the U.N. resolution.

Army tanks and soldiers have been deployed for two months in Croatian flashpoints to keep apart warring Orthodox Serbs and Roman Catholic Croats.

But Croatian leaders say the Serbian-dominated army sides with the Serbian minority, which opposes secessionist moves.

Despite the army presence, violence has increased. In the

latest fighting an old woman was killed Saturday in a mortar attack on the village of Lovinac near the Adriatic coastal town of Zadar, police said

Middle East News

U.N. human rights panel censures Iraq

From Waleed Sadi in Geneva

IRAQ CONTINUED to be bombarded with questions by the members of the U.N. human rights committee (UNHRC) in Geneva Friday, the second day of the consideration of its third periodic report to the human rights body. The Iraqi delegation's strategy of turning the direction of the deliberation around from Iraq's domestic human rights record to the war that was waged on it by the Western countries and the sanctions that are kept in force against Iraq and its people did not succeed at all. There was no sympathy expressed for Iraq from any quarters for its plea for understanding and appreciation of its hardships.

These hardships, the Iraqi side told the committee members, intended to deprive the Iraqi people of their right to self-determination, especially in the sense that the enemies of Iraq are in open league to change the government and impose a government of their liking instead.

The economic sanctions still in place against Iraq were described by the Iraqi delegation as an effective means to deprive the people of Iraq from the right to life.

In answer to questions raised Thursday about the use of chemical weapons and the development of nuclear weapons, Dhari Khalil Mahmood, leader of the Iraqi delegation, told the committee: "Iran cannot ignore the reality of nuclear power in the modern world."

The main Iranian opposition group, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, say Tehran has spent \$200 million on its nuclear programme since March 1990.

Shahram Chubin, a Middle East analyst and Iran expert, noted: "Because Iran is so far behind in conventional technology, with little hope of catching up, it would make good sense for them to go ahead with nuclear technology."

Most experts believe that Iran lags so much in nuclear technology that a military programme cannot be taken seriously.

The committee members, on the other hand, said they were more interested in the deeds of Iraq and not its laws and regulations which appear satisfactory on the surface.

Harder questions were asked later Friday on the right to self-determination. Within the committee the jurisprudence is now well-established to give this right to self-determination a domestic dimension.

On this point, the fortunes of the Iraqi side suddenly improved when the Iraqi delegation referred to the attention of the committee Article 5 of their constitution which specifically states that Iraq is composed of two nationalities, one Arab and the other Kurdish.

Mr. Mahmood told the audience that no where in the Middle East where are sizable Kurdish people is there such a recognition bestowed on them. Yet, the biggest score by the Iraqi side came late in the afternoon on the issue of religious freedom.

Mr. Mahmood turned the microphone to Basil Yousef, an Iraq Christian, to tell the members how the Christians in Iraq fare. Mr. Yousef, an old hand in human rights, told the experts that there is no contradiction between the reference to Islam as the religion of Iraq and the principle of religious tolerance and freedom. He explained his judgement on the basis that Islam accepts religious pluralism and therefore he and his fellow Christians in Iraq so no problem with the place of Islam in the constitution of Iraq.

The consideration of Iraq's report was finally concluded late Friday on a sour note. The committee found Iraq's explanations and submissions unsatisfactory. In effect, Iraq was censured over its human rights record.

Iran steps up its nuclear plan

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — While the United Nations struggles to dismantle Iraq's nuclear capabilities, Iran is stepping up its drive to join the nuclear club.

But Tehran insists its objective is nuclear energy, not weapons. Iran's nuclear ambitions, as it seeks to assert its dominant position in the Gulf in the post-war era, have raised few eyebrows in the region and beyond.

In recent weeks, Germany and France, despite their eagerness to develop their economic links with Tehran, have both rebuffed its requests for help in reviving Iran's dormant nuclear programmes.

It was launched in the 1960s by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before his overthrow in the 1979 revolution. The Iraqis bombed it at least six times during 1980-88 Gulf war.

Tehran insists that Siemens complete construction of the plant with two 13,000-megawatt reactors. But last month, the German government refused the company permission to resume work at Bushehr, citing unsatisfactory safety standards at the partially completed plant.

Tehran has threatened to withhold contracts worth billions of dollars unless Germany completes the plant.

Last month, Tehran asked France to supply enriched uranium, which can be used either to power a nuclear reactor or to make an atomic bomb. The French refused.

In 1974, the Shah bought a 10 per cent stake in Eurodif, the European uranium-enrichment consortium, for \$1 billion.

Iran's revolutionary government cancelled the deal, and demanded the money back. But sources in Tehran said that Iranian negotiators last month demanded that the deal be revived to get the nascent nuclear programme off the ground.

Iran has vast uranium deposits in its eastern Yazd province, but no means on enriching it.

Mr. Rafsanjani has urged scores of Iranian nuclear scientists who fled the country after the revolution to return home to help develop Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran has also been courting countries it feels would be willing to help, including the Soviet Union, China, Pakistan, Argentina and Brazil.

Only days before Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Tehran earlier this month, the Washington Post reported close nuclear cooperation between Tehran and Beijing.

Iranians flee Tehran after astrologer predicts quake

TEHRAN (R) — Iranians, frightened by a Chinese astrologist's prediction that a major earthquake would strike the city of seven million Sunday, are fleeing the capital in droves.

The scare began Friday when the main Tehran Radio news bulletins reported the prediction, together with statements from several seismologists that it had no scientific basis.

The astrologist, identified by the Iranian news agency IRNA as Sung Chi Bi, was apparently first quoted by Beijing Radio's Fars programme as predicting that an earthquake measuring between 6.3 and 6.8 on the Richter scale would hit Tehran at 8 p.m. (1530 GMT) Sunday.

At one government office Saturday the only talk among the staff was where to be Sunday night. Most said they would drive out to parks or other open spaces.

"Where shall we go? What shall we do?" said a dentist's panicking wife after storming into her husband's office.

Abrar newspaper said out-

bound traffic from Tehran had substantially increased after the news although many people were leaving Tehran anyway to take advantage of two-day holiday on Sunday and Monday.

About 95,000 people have been killed by earthquakes in Iran since 1910. The deadliest one, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, killed 35,000 people in the Caspian coast province of Gilan and neighbouring Zanjan northwest of Tehran last June.

Tehran's last brush with a major quake was in 1962 which killed 12,000 people in villages west of the capital.

Tehran Radio quoted Bahram Akkash, head of seismology at Tehran University's geophysics centre as saying the Chinese prediction was based on astrological studies.

The Tehran Times said experts were advising people in this country of 58 million not to panic because past predictions of earthquakes striking Tehran — including one in February 1990 — had proved wrong.

The Tehran Times regrets the mistake.

Episcopals vote against settlements

PHOENIX (AP) — Episcopal leaders have urged the United States to withhold aid to Israel in the amount it spends for settlements in the occupied territories, a measure criticised Friday by Jewish leaders.

Church representatives insisted Friday the measure was warranted by the pressure such settlements put on Palestinians, many of them Christians.

"If Israel is a democracy, it's flawed and doesn't include the Palestinians," said Bishop Orris J. Walker of Garden City, New York.

Representatives of the 2.5-million-member church were to wind up their 11-day convention Saturday night.

On Thursday, the church's governing convention passed resolutions that upheld Israel's right to secure borders, but called for a rigid state-controlled economy which opposition parties say caused the country's current economic and social woes. One of Mr. Meir's fiercest opponents, former Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, has called for the release of political prisoners, "to contribute to a detente in the country."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria's ruling party reelects leader

ALGIERS (R) — Abdel Hamid Mehri has been re-elected secretary-general of the Algeria's ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the party's paper Al Shabab reported Saturday. He was elected this week during a three-day closed-door session of the party's central committee. A 14-member politburo was to be elected late Saturday, the paper said. Mr. Mehri has been criticised by members of the FLN guard for supporting what they called the adventurous policies of reformist Former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche who has been replaced by Sid Ahmed Ghazali. His critics called for a return to the methods of the old socialist FLN favouring a rigidly state-controlled economy which opposition parties say caused the country's current economic and social woes. One of Mr. Meir's fiercest opponents, former Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim, has called for the release of political prisoners, "to contribute to a detente in the country."

Iraqi deputy foreign minister in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Nizar Hamdoun, an Iraqi deputy foreign minister who helped negotiate the release of U.S. nationals hostages in Baghdad in the days before the Gulf war, arrived in New York Friday for medical treatment. A State Department spokesman confirmed that Mr. Hamdoun, 47, a former Iraqi information minister and ambassador to Washington, had been granted a visa and no official meetings were planned. "His visit to the United States was permitted for medical reasons with the proviso that he not engage in political activity," the spokesman added. Mr. Hamdoun told a reporter outside his New York hotel that he was in the city for medical treatment. "It is a personal and private thing." He said president Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with his visit. "I just applied for a visa and came here." A spokesman for the Iraqi mission to the United Nations said he was not aware that Mr. Hamdoun was in New York. Mr. Hamdoun is credited with playing a key role in negotiations that lead to the release of U.S. nationals from Baghdad on the eve of the Gulf war.

Moroccan writer ridicules French charges

PARIS (R) — Moroccan dissident Abdeloumen Diouri, expelled by France last month for alleged contacts with Libyan and Iraqi agents, rejected the accusations Saturday, saying he was in Iraq once, to sell livestock. "Nothing in these weird allegations is true," Mr. Diouri told the daily newspaper Libération in his first interview since returning to Paris from Gabon this week after a French court ruled the government's expulsion order was illegal.

"Why was I not accused of being a Chinese secret agent since I went to China five times? Why not a Soviet agent... is it because the KGB is not longer fashionable? The reason I went to Libya and to other countries was for business. As for Iraq, I went there once in 1974 and never returned since. And the reason I was there was to sell livestock." Mr. Diouri, a successful international businessman and opponent of the Moroccan government, said the real reason for his expulsion was France's fear of King Hassan's reaction when the dissident's book "Who Owns Morocco?" is published in Paris in October. The book levels accusations, which Mr. Diouri says are document-proven, of serious misdeeds by the Moroccan ruler.

6 wounded in rocket attack over Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Six people were wounded by rockets fired by guerrillas on the Afghan capital Kabul, Afghanistan's Bakhtar news agency said Saturday. The 10 rockets, which hit residential areas of the city on Friday, also caused extensive damage to property, the agency said.

Lebanese-born businessman attacked in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — A Prominent Lebanese-born businessman was badly beaten up by unidentified attackers outside his Geneva home, police said Friday. They said Marwan Sharkachi was struggling for his life in a Geneva hospital after the attack Thursday night. He is the half-brother of Mohammad Sharkachi, the man linked to the fall from grace of former Swiss Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp. Police said three hooded attackers escaped. Marwan Sharkachi, a naturalised Swiss citizen, always denied any business connection with his half-brother, chairman of the Sharkachi Trading Company, a Zurich-based firm. Ms. Kopp resigned as minister in December 1988 after admitting she had warned her husband that the trading company, of which he was vice-president, was suspected of money-laundering. A Zurich court cleared Mohammad Sharkachi after a year-long investigation.

Retired Bishop John Burt of Cleveland also opposed the church action, saying it might make the United States a "prejudiced partner" in any peace process; he also objected to designating Arab Jerusalem as occupied territory.

"There is a substantial Jewish population which has called East Jerusalem home for generations," Bishop Burt said.

Correction

An article entitled "Stranded Somalis stage sit-in in Amman" in its Thursday edition the Jordan Times erroneously reported that Mohammad Yousef, 47, said that 14 members of his family were killed by anti-Siad Barre rebels in Somalia, leaving him the sole survivor." The report should have read Mohammad Yousef, 27, said that 14 members of his family were killed by unknown assailants in Somalia, leaving him the sole survivor. The Jordan Times regrets the mistake.

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Tehran Radio quoted Bahram Akkash, head of seismology at Tehran University's geophysics centre as saying the Chinese prediction was based on astrological studies.

The Tehran Times said experts

were advising people in this

country of 58 million not to panic

because past predictions of earth-

quakes striking Tehran — includ-

ing one in February 1990 — had

proved wrong.

Abrar newspaper said out-

about traffic from Tehran had substantially increased after the news although many people were leaving Tehran anyway to take advantage of two-day holiday on Sunday and Monday.

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RJ delegation that initiated new route returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) returned to Amman Saturday after inaugurating RJ's new route between Amman and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The team, led RJ's Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh, met with Sri Lankan civil aviation and Air Lanka (UL) officials to discuss cooperation in promoting tourism along the new route and also training of pilots and maintenance of aircraft.

Sri Lankan officials have expressed happiness over the new route between the two countries which, they said, would contribute positively to the development of bilateral ties and tourism as well as air transport, according to Mr. Abu Ghazaleh.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Jamal Balqz has extended an invitation to his Sri Lankan counterpart to visit Jordan in order to sign an agreement on air transport between the two countries.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said that another invitation went to the UL Board of Directors to come and discuss RJ-UL cooperation in technical fields, including aircraft maintenance and air safety training courses.

Queen Noor visits young women's camp at Ajloun

AJLOUN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened the Fourth Jordanian Expatriate Young Women Camp at Ajloun, which was attended by 70 participants.

The Queen met with the participants who came to Jordan from Arab countries, listened to their views and proposals and inspected the type of recreational and tourist activities they intend to carry out over the coming seven days.

The Queen, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein and Princess Bassma Ali Nayef as well as other guests and senior officials, toured the camp in the company of officials from the Ministry of Youth, which organised the annual event.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Saturday opened a plastic art exhibition and an exhibition of traditional embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre. The plastic art exhibition displays 42 drawings by Iraqi artists Batoul Al Fakieh, Abdul Jabbar Salman and Ibrahim Al Abdali. The traditional embroidery exhibition includes traditional costumes and embroideries as well as handicrafts. The two exhibitions, which will last until July 25, are held as part of the Jerash Festival activities (Petra photo).

Group meeting aimed at enhancing cooperation between auditors and accountants to serve Arab economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Secretariat Board of the Arab Federation of Accountants and Auditors opened a two-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss matters on the agenda for the Ninth Arab meeting of Accountants and Auditors scheduled to be held in Amman in February 1992.

The delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen and Palestine will also review the activities and programmes of the pan-Arab Accountancy and Auditing Institute of Baghdad, according to the federation's Secretary General Abdul Shabib Al Naqib.

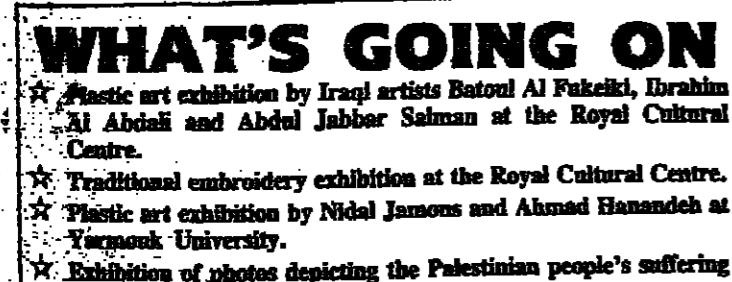
Mr. Naqib told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the federation's main aim is to achieve closer cooperation among auditors and accountants in the Arab World with a view to serving the Arab economy.

The federation, which groups prominent accountants and au-

ditors of the Arab World, aims also to unify all laws and regulations governing the profession of accountancy and auditing, organising seminars to review latest trends in the profession and consider new avenues for cooperation among federation members, Mr. Naqib said.

President of the Jordanian Auditors Association Ibrahim Al Abbasi told Petra that the federation aims, through its meetings and the coming conference, to keep the federation and cooperation among Arab auditors apart from inter-Arab political differences.

According to Hazem Alousi, the institute's director, the federation established the institute in 1979 to produce qualified auditors after training courses. He said that the institute has branches in Kuwait and Dubai and now seeks to open centres in Khartoum and Amman.



WHAT'S GOING ON

- ✗ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artists Batoul Al Fakieh, Ibrahim Al Abdali and Abdul Jabbar Salman at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ✗ Traditional embroidery exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ✗ Plastic art exhibition by Nidal Jamous and Ahmad Hanandeh at Yarmouk University.
- ✗ Exhibition of photos depicting the Palestinian people's suffering under Israeli occupation at Yarmouk University.



Jordan commemorates death of the late King Abdullah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saturday marked the 40th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

King Abdullah was assassinated while performing prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem in 1951. In observation of the anniversary, His Majesty King Hussein and other members of the Royal family visited the late King's tomb.

King Hussein was greeted by a salute from an honour guard before he recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid a wreath on the tomb of his grandfather.

In 1916, when the Great Arab

Revolt was launched by his father Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca, the young prince led the Arab army into battle against an Ottoman garrison in Taif. King Abdullah also played a major role in the political arena and took part in talks held between his father and the allied armies after the First World War. He also sought to rally Arab ranks and led the Arab armies in the struggle to save Palestine from Zionist occupation in 1948.

The late King unified the west and east banks of Jordan to set up the United Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1950.

Palestinian culture continues to prosper in occupied territories

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A prominent Palestinian intellectual called on the Jordanian Ministry of Culture and Information to establish a Jordanian institution for protecting Palestinian culture in the occupied Arab territories.

Mohammad Batravi, the director of Al Masrah Palestinian Cultural Centre in Jerusalem accepted the invitation of the Shouman Foundation last week to speak on Palestinian cultural life during the intifada.

In his talk, Mr. Batravi stressed that the Palestinians in the occupied territories need the comprehensive Jordanian assistance in their effort to deal with Israeli occupational authorities' measures aimed at destroying Palestinian cultural life and national identity.

"We are looking forward to (assistance from) the Jordanian Ministry of Culture and Information in consideration of the hardships we are going through. The establishment of a cultural institution in Jordan which will be in charge of the Palestinian-Jordanian cultural import-export relations would be of an enormous help to our cultural protection process and the cultural development," Mr. Batravi said.

In a special interview with the Jordan Times, he stressed that in spite of the new rigorous measures imposed by the Israeli authorities during the intifada, Palestinian cultural life is increasing.

Every year, 500 new books are printed.

In addition there is a new trend in music which uses the folk musical heritage of the Palestinians and the national songs. As Mr. Batravi likes to point out: "A record became a prominent hero of the intifada."

He also pointed to the thousands of people who are engaged in the socio-political and cultural work on volunteer basis.

"As far as Al Masrah Centre is concerned, and it is our only cultural centre because the martial law prohibits cultural enterprise in the occupied territories, I can say that we are more productive than we have ever been. Our 35 artistic troops (theatrical, dancing, music, folkloric groups) work under their full capacity. We stage 5-6 plays on a monthly basis. Before, this number (represented) the annual production."

During last three years, we have sponsored two festivals: "The First International Puppets Festival in 1989, when we featured 35 plays together with our guests from Belgium, England, Italy and Greece, and the Palestinian Theatrical Festival in 1990, when we performed 35 new plays in one month," Mr. Batravi said.

He added that his cultural ex-

pansion is not the result of the intifada. Rather, the intifada is the result of this cultural accumulation.

"People believe that culture is a synonym to the education. I would say that a culture is an accumulation and production of knowledge, beliefs, arts and moral values as well as the relations built up in the process of the accumulation and production," he said.

Mr. Batravi said that the Palestinians in the occupied territories are not romantic about a stone liberating Palestine. They realise their real strength lies in their culture, mind and consciousness.

Since 1984, he has been the director of the Hawakat Theatre,

which is today called Al Masrah Palestinian Cultural Centre.

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 13 Arab countries gathered in Amman Saturday for a two-day meeting organised by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) to discuss Islamic history.

The seminar, organised in cooperation with the Jordanian National Committee on Education, Culture and Science will review matters related to Islamic history writing, changes in Islamic societies, interaction between Muslims and non-Islamic cultures and the role of women in Islamic societies.

The participants are all history teachers in schools and universities in the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Education Eid Dahbiyat said that history was of

great significance to the Arab and Islamic worlds, requiring appropriate analysis for the benefit of the coming generations.

Referring to the national educational plan in Jordan, the minister said that the plan gives ample attention to the teaching of history and social studies because of their paramount importance to society.

ISESCO Director Ali Qasimi said ISESCO was implementing programmes aimed at enhancing the new generation's understanding of the role of Islam and Muslims in human civilisation.

Participants represent Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Sudan, Qatar, Mauritania, Iraq, Morocco, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Palestine.

Water shortage worsens as villagers continue complaining

AMMAN (J.T.) — The water shortage in the Kingdom is becoming more acute this summer because of the limited amounts of available underground water reserves and to the increase in consumption in the hot season, especially with the presence of large numbers of Jordanian expatriates spending the holiday in the country.

A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saturday focused attention on the water shortages in the Irbid Governorate, only 10 days after a report about the complaints of factory owners at the Sahab industrial city near Amman, who complained about the shortage of water which they said was detrimental to production.

Some of the villages in the Irbid Governorate have had no water supplies for the past three months and the Water Authority is struggling to deal with the situation, Petra reported.

The village of Tibneh, near Irbid, is one of these "dry" villages and, according to Irbid Water Authority Director Ibrahim Al Rawashdeh, lack of supply was due to work that was going on a road linking the village with Zobya, another village in the

area.

Mr. Rawashdeh admitted that the villagers had no water supply for three months but said that his teams have now succeeded in resuming the water supply to the village.

Water Authority sources said that the insufficient rainfall in the country over the past two years, coupled with increased water consumption and the presence of additional numbers of people in Jordan during the summer, are making its teams' task more difficult.

Furthermore, excessive water consumption on the part of certain groups of people in different areas of the country make it difficult for the Water Authority to maintain the water distribution programme to various population centres.

According to Petra, the area is suffering from an acute water shortage unprecedented in its history. The Water Authority told Petra that the scattered homes in the villages, the extra length of the water pipelines needed and the selfishness of certain groups which continue to consume more water than they need are adding to the difficulties.

Villages like Thuneibeh, Amraweh, Shajara and Tura in the Ramtha District have made persistent complaints to the Water Authority, demanding longer hours of water pumping to their areas, Petra reported.

Ramtha District Governor Salati Nassar said that the shortage of water in the villages is worsening partly due to the loss of underground ground water because the water network is old and rusty.

Agreement was reached with the Water Authority recently to replace the old network with a new six-kilometre long system, a project which will be carried out in the coming three weeks.

The Water Authority announced at the start of July that it would be conducting trial water pumping from Wala Springs, near the town of Madaba, in a bid to provide additional water for domestic consumption during the summer season.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation had said that the Amman Governorate alone consumes up to 210,000 cubic metres of water daily. That amount was expected to rise to 230,000 cubic metres a day during the summer, according to the ministry.

Government begins work on Karak hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has embarked on the initial stage for the construction of a JD 12 million hospital in Karak with promised substantial assistance from the Italian government by awarding a local consultancy engineering firm a tender to carry out studies and designs for the project.

The consultancy firm Saturday began its task which, according to an agreement with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, should not exceed 186 days. Under the agreement, the local firm awarded the project by

Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Serour. The firm will prepare designs and necessary studies for the 210-bed hospital, which will be set up on 125 dunums of land.

The firm will receive JD 39,000 for its studies and designs, according to the agreement. The ministry said in a statement that the projected hospital will include units for surgery, internal diseases, gynaecology and obstetrics, pediatrics, an intensive care unit, outpatient clinics for all specialisations, emergency and first aid sections, laboratories, a

pharmacy and affiliated services.

In his statement to Parliament Thursday, Prime Minister Taher Masri said that the Health Ministry will soon embark on building the Karak hospital along with hospitals in Ruseifa and Koura and 18 health centres around the Kingdom.

In his earlier statement, Mr. Masri pledged that the government will be fair and just in the distribution of health services to all governors and will improve the work of hospitals and health centres in the rural and badia regions.

Khalifeh is a smashing success at Jerash

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lebanese singer Marcel Khalifeh performed his final of three concerts at the ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash on Saturday, ending what his fans would describe as historic moments in Jordan's recent music history.

Mr. Khalifeh succeeded in making thousands of his Jordanian fans participate in his performance, as he had wanted them to do when he first arrived in Amman for the first time in his 15-year career. Thousands of people sang, cheered and clapped with him and his Mayadeen band.

For someone whose music was banned in Jordan less than two years ago, Mr. Khalifeh's music was well-known to the thousands who attended his concerts in the past three days at the Tenth Jerash Festival.

Hundreds of people arrived at the ancient theatre hours before the scheduled performance at 8:30 p.m. to get the best seats. As more and more people arrived, particularly the youth, they sang his songs and clapped in chorus, warming up to see him for the first time.

Some of his songs had all 6,000 fans on their feet, their hands clapping up in the air, shouting their lungs out, singing along with Mr. Khalifeh.

According to a Lebanese photographer close to Mr. Khalifeh, his audience at the Jerash Festival were the "best." He also

had great audiences in Tunisia and Morocco, according to the photographer. "But this audience knew his music so well," he told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

Mr. Khalifeh has performed for Arabs in the diaspora, such as in North and South America, many European countries, Australia and in the Arab Maghreb countries.

He had told the Jordan Times when he first arrived last week that he had wanted his new audience (but long-time fans) to take part in his concert.

"The audience must be a participant in my concert, because it brings life to it to become a celebration and festivity," Mr. Khalifeh had said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Belgium

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to King Baudouin of Belgium to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Belgium's national day anniversary. King Hussein wished King Baudouin good health and happiness and the Belgian people further progress and prosperity.

Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet Sunday at 5 p.m. under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Araby and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri and the Council of Ministers. The House is scheduled to refer to its specialised committees several laws to be approved. The House's Legal Committee will also meet on Monday to discuss amendments to the Army Fund Law for 1990 and the Punitive Trials Law 1990. The committee will also discuss the Higher Court of Justice Temporary Law for 1990 and a law rescinding the Communism Resistance Law for the year 1990.

Committee begins work

TAFILAH (Petra) — The committee entrusted with following up repair works of damages inflicted by last winter season's rainstorms and floods in southern Jordan commenced its work Saturday. Committee sources said that a complete study of the damaged projects was prepared after the committee members paid field visits to those projects in the governorates of Karak, Tafilah and Maan. The committee was set up last month by the Minister of Public Works and Housing to supervise repair work and assess the damages and the funds needed for the projects.

Unfit food destroyed

ZARQA (Petra) — The Health Department in Zarqa Governorate destroyed Saturday 1,490 kilogrammes of food which was found unfit for human consumption, according to the department Director Abdul Aziz Al Shereid. Dr. Shereid said the department's inspectors have carried out since last month about 4,343 inspection tours of stores and restaurants. He said 47 stores were fined and 572 others were issued warning for not abiding by the health and public safety regulations.

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Putting the horse before the cart

AMERICAN Secretary of State James Baker, who brings his latest peace mission to Jordan today, is unlikely to hear anything new in Amman except a reaffirmation of the Kingdom's principled position against the backdrop of the momentum given to the peace process by Syria's acceptance of President George Bush's compromise proposals.

It has been conveyed to Washington time and again that Jordan has been and still is very much committed to achieving a just and honourable peace settlement with Israel within the framework of a process which encompasses all elements, dimensions and aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Needless to say, it means, in no uncertain terms, that Israel has to relinquish the Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 war and recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up an independent state. There can and never be any compromise over this.

But if Mr. Baker is pushing his theme of "confidence-building measures" between Israel and the Arab states as a priority before the actual peace process can get off the ground, then the American secretary of state is in for a surprise, given the fact that even a hypothetical Arab consideration of such steps has already been preempted by the Israeli reaffirmation that an exchange of land for peace is not the objective of any talks, if they take place at all. Isn't the entire purpose defeated by this simple Israeli declaration?

In any event, Arabs have given up too much over the years to nothing but Israeli intransigence in return to be taken for another ride along the same route; this time in the form of dropping the boycott of Israel. It is simply a no-go situation, and Mr. Baker would be well-advised not to waste any energy in trying to put the cart before the horse. If anything, the secretary of state needs to preserve all his prowess for his meetings with Israeli leaders later today.

At the same time, the realities on the ground — particularly in the occupied Arab lands — and the shape of things to come dictate that any opportunity for peace should not be squandered away. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan pointed out Friday, there will not be any territory left to negotiate over if Israel managed to continue to step its decades-old "Arabs-are-not-serious-for-peace" song and dance number and gain time to reinforce its fait accompli — the settlements in the occupied lands.

The Arab side has made its position loud and clear that it is willing for peace based on international legitimacy, United Nations resolutions, recognition of the rights of all parties involved, fairness and justice. Regrettably, that is not the message we are getting from the Israeli side.

Obviously, the question in the air is simple and clear: Will Washington, for once, switch from its stand that it cannot/will not twist the Israeli arm and apply pressure where it is needed?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Hardly had U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made his statement in Damascus after meeting with Syrian officials disclosing that the talks were encouraging, than we heard Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders issue several statements in defiance of the American secretary and his current initiative to establish peace in the region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said that Mr. Shamir was followed by Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levy saying that Mr. Baker's tour does not mean that Israel is in agreement over the negotiations for peace with the Arab states and that Syria's demand that Israel evacuate the occupied Golan Heights will not be regarded by Israel. The paper noted that such statements were not only a manifestation of Israel's intransigence but constituted a real defiance to the international will and the U.S. administration. The paper said that the coming very few days would reveal whether the U.S. secretary will be able to confront such defiance and deal with Israel's intransigence and refusal of the international will. We will see if the American secretary will carry out what is needed of his task in order to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions or whether he will come back to the Arabs with further demands as put forth by Israel as a price for the negotiations, the paper noted. The American intentions are not yet known to the Arabs and this will be the opportunity for Mr. Baker to disclose these intentions and it is a chance for the Arabs to coordinate their efforts at this stage, the paper called. It said that the Arabs ought to see that unless they coordinated their positions, they can by no means overcome Israel's intransigence and place real pressure on the American administration to act towards the establishment of peace.

All the promises given to the people of southern Jordan by the previous government and the Parliament members have gone with the wind and the damaged areas because of the rain storms last winter remain untouched, said Mouss Al Abdulla, a columnist in Al Dustour Arabic daily. The writer noted that members of Parliament and ministers appeared on television to assure the residents of the south that plans have been worked out to help them resume their life again, and the government promised to carry out repair to the roads and bridges and to provide assistance to the farmers, but nothing has happened. The writer noted also that the southern regions of Jordan had been promised a few development projects than other areas and even these projects have not yet been implemented. The government should be prompted by national duty to extend immediate help to the south and to see to it that the southern regions get a share in development schemes on equal footing with the other regions, called the writer. He said we do not want to hear new pledges and promises from the new government or Parliament members but to see action, and we do not want to see reports on television about visits to the damaged areas but rather reports about reconstruction work. The writer said the new ministers in the present government are now called on to fulfil the promises given by their colleagues in the former government which failed to provide the required help to the needy farmers and the residents of the south.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic damage has yet to come

THE title of the article intends to establish two facts. First that the Jordanian economy was not heavily damaged in 1990 as a result of Gulf crisis. Second that the real economic impact of the crisis on Jordan has yet to take place. The impact will gradually be felt as from now and is expected to last for years to come. That unless Jordan receives massive external aid and Jordan's debts are written off.

It is obvious now that the immediate damage to the economy has so far been much less than feared, only tourism and transport were badly affected but for a relatively short period of time.

It is true that due to the Gulf crisis Jordan lost one quarter of its export markets, one third of expatriates' remittances, and all Arab aid, but, on the short run, Jordan was adequately compensated for those damages through foreign aid, concessionary oil from Iraq, and suspension of debt service. On cash basis, the Jordanian balance of payments for 1990 showed a surplus of \$342 million, which was added to the reserves.

Gross domestic product was not slashed by the terrible ratios suggested in early estimates. GDP in 1990 is thought to be only 7.9 per cent down in real terms instead of the previously anticipated growth rate of 3 per cent.

However, the international financial compensation was only temporary. While Jordan may suffer in the longer run because the

freeze of Arab aid may continue for years, foreign aid may dry up or decline sharply, creditors may start to put pressure on Jordan to resume payment and, above all, more Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates may return from Kuwait and other Gulf states while the country is ill-prepared to receive them.

The budget deficit was covered early in 1991, but may worsen in 1992 and beyond. The cash surplus in the balance of payments in 1990 may be reversed into a painful deficit, and the high unemployment rate of 25 per cent may go even higher.

The major burden on the economy will be the absorption of returnees and their families. If the number reached half a million, Jordan will need a minimum of \$7.5 billion to build the badly needed facilities and infrastructure in education, health, water, sewage, electricity, transport, communication and housing. The above figure is based on an assumed average cost of \$15,000 to absorb one returnee, although the cost of absorption of one Jewish immigrant to Israel is estimated at \$100,000.

Before the Gulf crisis, the official conservative estimate of the unemployed stood at 100,000 or 16 per cent of the total labour force. Since then some 60,000 expatriates, mostly from Kuwait, returned to the country, together with 200,000 of their dependents. A small portion passed on to the West Bank or migrated to the new world but the majority settled in Jordan. Unemployment

rose to 23 per cent before taking into account the local loss of jobs in certain sectors, which should put total unemployment at 25 per cent.

The Palestinian holocaust now in progress in Kuwait means that more Jordanians and Palestinians will return. At least 100,000 new jobs must be created in the country just to keep the unemployment rate that prevailed before the crisis.

The cost of investment to create one job in Jordan is estimated at \$30,000. This means that at least \$3 billion are needed. If this amount was added to the \$7.5 billion needed to absorb the returnees, the overall amount required will be \$10.5 billion or 300 per cent of GDP.

Foreign donors such as Japan, Germany, the EC and international institutions may have the impression that they have done enough, and that the Jordanian economy is not in bad shape and does not need more cash injections in the form of grants and soft loans, but nothing is further from the truth.

It is no more productive to go on talking about damages that happened to the Jordanian economy because of the Gulf crisis. The large scale damages did not happen yet. Jordan does not only need billions of dollars to tackle its forthcoming economic and social burdens, and the write-off of its debts, it also needs a fair share of water from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers, otherwise a major crisis will hit.

The West lends a hand to a new-found 'colleague'

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When George Bush stood on the lawn in London, he sounded like he was trying hard to overlook a fellow's faults.

"Yes, Mr. Bush conceded, President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union was still "proping up" Fidel Castro, "the one totalitarian dictator, Communist dictator, in our hemisphere" with economic aid — but "it's very small."

And, Mr. Bush said, he had to compliment Mr. Gorbachev for achieving an arms control breakthrough while trying to cope with a country collapsing.

Maybe it is the enormity of the problems facing Mr. Gorbachev that makes people sympathetic.

The empire is in revolt. His reforms are introducing inflation and unemployment to the weary

Russians. He'd like to bring his troops home from old East Germany but has nowhere for them to live. The KGB and old-line communists are wary. And then there's Boris Yeltsin in the wings.

Is Mikhail Gorbachev a friend or foe? Was this the week, in London, that put West and East in the same boat, both now bent on bailing it out?

"I wouldn't feel right in saying they were a friend, but I wouldn't think it right to say they're a foe," said Raymond Garthoff, an arms control negotiator in the Nixon administration and the Carter administration's ambassador to Bulgaria.

After all, Mr. Garthoff reasoned, if the Soviets were really friends, arms control agreements wouldn't be necessary. "We don't need one with Britain, for example."

And if America still has a significant military foe, his name is Gorbachev. By last month's

estimate of the Arms Control Association, a private group, the Soviets have 11,212 nuclear warheads aimed at the United States. If these are not the worst of times, they aren't yet the best of times.

But no one seems worried, except the hardliners.

"Gorbachev remains committed to preserving as much as he can of a system that is absolutely antithetical to everything we stand for and believe in and hold dear," says Frank Gaffney, former Reagan administration Pentagon official, who worries about the passing of American suspicions.

"The reality is that Gorbachev is working for the hardliners, for the KGB, for the military, for the apparatchik," Mr. Gaffney argued.

"He remains a foe," concurred Roger Robinson, former staff member of the Reagan administration's National Security Council.

"Gorbachev continues to spend billions of dollars annually to support bankrupt client states from Havana to Hanoi," Mr. Robinson said.

"Technological theft and espionage are on the rise. Strategic force modernisation continues unabated. Moscow continues to dedicate 25 per cent of its GNP to the military. The Baltic states and other secessionist republics face untenable requirements like a five-year waiting period. And the list goes on."

But even Ronald Reagan has come around to the view that Mr. Gorbachev — and he — turned the old world upside down.

Mr. Reagan toured Moscow last September and harkened back to his Geneva summit with the Soviet leader, asking, "who would have thought that the warmth of that fireplace in Geneva would melt the ice of the cold war?"

Friend or foe?

Beauty and the junkyard

By Ivan Illich

WHERE does wealth come from? Every schoolboy can answer, the economy. Fine. But what is the economy? I was helped in my understanding of this question by reading Karl Polanyi's interpretations of Aristotle. Aristotle observed something new and unheard-of in Athens. Some citizen merchants were using a previously unknown technique when they offered their goods in the market. Instead of selling these goods at cost plus profit these innovators let the price vary according to offer and demand. Aristotle was fascinated that such a transaction could take place and wondered how it worked. Mr. Polanyi was the first to recognise this.

He assembled a team of historians at Columbia University. Each studied a different society, trying to discover when prices first began to move according to supply and demand in ordinary times. All of them reported that the replacement of simple trade by this marketing technique was not part of the ordinary social life in any ancient society. Such an arrangement only became the form of common behaviour at the time of Aristotle and after.

Here, I began to see the first lineaments of what is today called the economy — a system resting on scarcity.

No wonder Aristotle was surprised. Up to this historic moment, the management of goods necessary for everyday life in the city was nowhere structured in terms of scarcity. In fact, societies were generally so arranged that the experience of scarcity could not emerge.

Back, then, to our question. Wealth is believed to come from the economy. But I have come to suspect that the primary product of the economy is waste. To understand this I suggest the use of the term "disvalue."

Disvalue means something quite other than price, cost or economic loss. I strongly suspect the social creation of disvalue is the necessary condition for the recognition and acceptance of, and desire for, mass products as valuable. Disvalue is necessarily related to a certain kind of economics because it makes such an economy possible. Modern economics presupposes the devaluation of culturally determined patterns of behaviour. The

mass production of goods, services, and images demands cultural and environmental blight through the spread of disvalue throughout the society. The necessary matrix for the accumulation of economic value, the very character of a successful modern society, is the principled devaluation of traditional cultures.

When I speak about disvalue, I refer to a historical, social ideal which may be the source of the fact that modern society has transformed the earth from an open, breathing space into a stinking junkyard.

Waste is something more and other than an unwanted side effect of the economy. Waste is disvalue, the condition which makes modern forms of production possible.

It is false to assume that all cultures had some kind of concept of waste, and that some were more successful than others in its management.

Human beings, then, came to be seen as needy, and society as a collection of needy people.

Now we see that all these cultural changes are a devaluation of self-sufficiency.

Greater demand really means people are more needy. Slowly, we begin to see that the

joke. In the nineties, it is sheepishly and quietly taken for granted. Schools cannot but degrade more people than they privilege; health care cannot but create a more terrifying range of suffering and despair; the acceleration of transportation cannot but make movement ever more time-consuming for the majority.

Finally, disvalue becomes a kind of velvet python, squeezing all life out of us. T.S. Eliot's hollow men now stalk the earth, zombie-like creatures, plugged into a grand and sparkling array of technological wonders.

A certain geo-sophical principle, an earth wisdom, has been violated. Through a continual flow of the water cycle through the atmosphere, the topsoil and human culture, the earth lives in a kind of open system. Now we see that the contribution of culture is decisive for this system's life.

An essential condition for the flourishing and survival of any society is the protection and enhancement of the water-soil matrix of the environment. Western society, through the intensification and extension of disvalue, goes in the opposite direction.

Mexico City is the very image of modernity, the microcosm of the West today. There, excretion, junk, poisons, waste heat, cannot be transformed and radiated back into the cosmic cycle. The possibilities of human cultivation are smothered under the stinking blanket of a yellow-grey miasma. The earth now evolves into a self-centred pile of trash where the accumulation of wastes extinguishes the rhythms of a living and breathing planet.

At its heart is what we call economics. And one can trace the history of economic development in the West from the scarcity underlying Aristotle's traders through the destruction of autonomous cultural responses to the human conditions, through the transformation of a planet into a junkyard, to the evisceration of the human comedy itself.

In the 1970s and 1980s we came to discover counterproductivity. Our major modern institutions exercise a paradoxical power; they prevent most of their clients from reaching the goals for which they were originally designed and financed. In the sixties, increasingly, disvalues appear as the principle output of the

progressive devaluation of culture, the environment and the human person is the driving force economic production.

We no longer identify economic growth with the improvement in the human condition. We have learned something about the social price of many products. And as societies experience greater progress, so more refined heights of privilege are created.

In many ways enrichment means the accumulation of culture, the environment and the human person is the driving force economic production.

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progressive devaluation of culture, the environment and the human person is the driving force economic production.

"Fascinating question," said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney in an interview with the Associated Press. "He is a mixture of complex things."

Mr. Cheney said the bottom line is that this country really does not know what is going to happen inside the Soviet Union. But he said Gorbachev is in charge now, and "we have to deal with him, no matter where he's headed. Whether he's going to continue down a reformist path or bark back to a more

Parents can be teachers, too

By Judith Judd

WHEN a headteacher in a poor part of the north of England was asked by a researcher about parents helping their under-fives to read and write, he replied: "You won't find much of that in this area."

He was wrong. Peter Hannon, from Sheffield University, found that most parents, even in deprived areas, spend time teaching their children the rudiments of reading and writing. He also found that most teachers worried about this. They believed parents might use the wrong methods or apply too much pressure.

Despite the fashionable phrases about involving parents in children's learning, the notion that teacher always knows best dies hard. In 1967, the Plowden report urged a closer relationship between parents and teachers, but educationists throughout the Sixties and early Seventies urged parents not to teach their children the alphabet before they started school. Thousands of middle-class parents obeyed, and then wondered why the children had difficulty learning to read. Lord Bullock, whose report on reading was published in 1975, attacked the "popular belief" that children should not be taught their letters before they started school.

Since then, politicians have adopted the cause of parent power and evidence has accumulated that children who are helped by their parents before and after

they start school gain a head start. Research in Haringey, north London, and Coventry revealed that parental help with reading raised standards. Another study showed that in some ways home was a better place to learn than school. Professor Peter Mortimore, now deputy director of the Institute of Education in London, suggested that parents could improve not only their own children's attainments, but also those of schools.

Yet the most recent study shows that many schools are still unwilling to involve parents in their children's learning. Teachers argued that it does more than deal with individual requests for help would disadvantage children with less enthusiastic parents. Sandra Jowell of the National Foundation for Educational Research, who carried out the three-year project for the Department of Education, says: "Teachers underestimated both the parents' desire to help their children, and the extent to which it was already being done."

The words "parental involvement" may now be on everybody's lips, says Miss Jowell, but that does not mean that schools understand what they mean. A school with parent helpers in the classroom and meetings to explain what is taught may still be failing many parents. Schools have to find ways of communicating with those who do not turn up.

Parents of all social classes

want precise information about their children's progress and what they are being taught. Those who do not come into school may be just as interested; they may be simply too shy, or too busy. "Parents' concern over their lack of knowledge about their children's school lives and, in some instances, the confusing and unhelpful contact they had experienced with staff, were evident for all ages of children," says the report.

One mother was not allowed to hand over her child's dinner money because it was not in an envelope. Another spent 10 minutes on a winter evening searching for an unsigned postcard in a school bag. In some schools, the dialogue between home and school was so poor that parents were made to feel guilty about what they had taught. One parent who attended a course before her son started school told the researchers: "I've learnt that I've been teaching Hugh wrong for four years. I've just been told it's completely wrong. I've got to do it all over again."

Doubts about the ability of parents to teach are harboured by both teachers and parents themselves. Parents in Mr. Hannon's study were worried about whether they were doing the "right" things. Some teachers argue that parents who use methods that are different from those being used at school will muddle their children — for instance, those who are taught letter

names by their parents find it more difficult to learn letter sounds at school. Mr. Hannon disagrees. "I don't think children have any difficulty learning both names and sounds. Parents who want to teach their children to read and write are absolutely right. Teachers try to divert children into safer kinds of activities because they are afraid parents will put pressure on. But every parent knows how difficult it is to put pressure on a four-year-old to do anything — let alone read and write."

State schools vary enormously in the extent to which they involve parents. Even those that appear the same may be different. Some primary schools with "shared reading" schemes respond conscientiously to parents' comments; others do not. Homework diaries are checked daily in some secondary schools; in others they lapse after a couple of terms.

Independent schools differ even more. The Independent Schools Information Service, which is still battling to persuade most private schools to accept parent governors, says that the involvement of parents in the fee-paying sector ranges from the independent day schools, where they are treated in much the same way as their counterparts in the state system, to traditional boarding schools, where they do not expect to be closely involved.

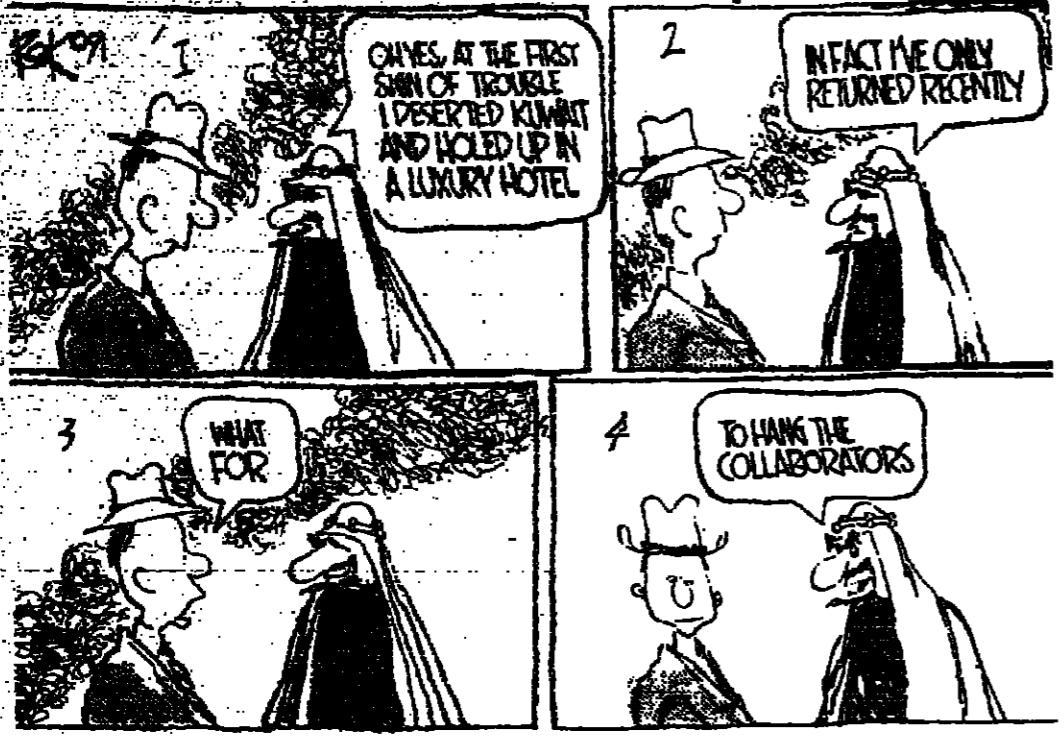
Despite the political and educational rhetoric, relations be-

tween home and school are progressing slowly. Humberstone's homeschool liaison scheme, which started two years ago, uses 42 teachers to promote contact with parents. Alwyn Morgan, the school community officer, says that the county council is trying to show parents how they can help their children across the curriculum. "If parents' help raises standards in reading, the same must be true of science and maths. We want to turn the old idea of homework on its head. Children should be encouraged, not reprimanded, if they ask for help from their parents."

Humberstone parents are using a shared maths scheme called Impact, along with other games and activities, to improve their children's literacy and numeracy. There is even a pack of activities on European Awareness for children and their parents to tackle together. A few parents are studying for GCSE exams in their children's schools.

Mr. Morgan sees parents as educators, but understands teachers' fears. "Most teachers have not been trained to work with parents because in the past the importance of parents was not emphasised."

They have to change. Only when teachers are prepared to share with parents the task of education will we be on the way to raising standards for all Britain's children — The Independent.



Kuwaitis cannot manage without servants

By Michael Kuli
Reuters

KUWAIT — Fatima Rabah's life is hell.

"We just can't live without servants," says the Kuwaiti mother of two. "My life has been a misery since the Iraqis invaded our country."

To some Kuwaitis grown rich on the emirate's oil wealth, putting out the rubbish or making their own breakfast feels like a dirty act, an affront to their self-esteem.

They used to be waited on by cheap domestic labour from India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Bangladesh. But thousands of servants fled the country during the Iraqi occupation and have not returned.

Many Kuwaitis resolved to become more self-reliant. Women who had never worked before took cookery courses while in exile in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

But other Kuwaitis are not enjoying doing the chores round the house one bit.

"I have been waking up at nights to fix milk bottles for my younger baby," Mr. Rabah said. "I haven't slept well for months."

Even modest Kuwaiti households were used to at least one servant. Women competed over who had the largest domestic staff. Cooking, cleaning, and even raising children — all these activities were beyond the experience of many Kuwaitis.

"We can live without cars, even without food for a while but without servants? no way," said Mohammad Laith, who runs an agency for foreign domestic labour.

"I have been in this business for more than 20 years now and this is the best year I ever had. Thank you Saddam Hussein," Mr. Laith said.

He added: "Servants have been an essential part of our lives for years. Why not, if we can afford them?"

The government estimates there were some 250,000 servants, mostly women, working in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. Only a few thousand have remained.

The issue has gone right to the top of the political agenda.

One of the first items being

debated by the National Council, Kuwait's interim parliament which reopened this week, is a proposal to reduce the cost of visas for servants and to cut down on the red tape needed to apply for them.

Politicians say one of the reasons why thousands of Kuwaitis are still reluctant to return to the country four months after the end of the Gulf war is because they would have no servants to look after them.

There is also a dark side to the whole business.

Domestic labour is very poorly paid and servants are open to all kinds of abuse from their employers with little redress available.

"People come here as servants to earn badly needed money for their families back home. But as often as not, they end up being beaten, robbed or raped," said Hadi Jassem who runs a servant agency.

Customers at the country's 500 agencies pick maids from picture catalogues.

The authorities accept nobody under 20, and consider few over 35 because older women are deemed "unproductive".

Nationality and religion are also important criteria — Muslims are thought more wholesome in an Islamic country and are more expensive as a result.

The agencies charge 270 dinars (\$770) to bring over a Sri Lankan Muslim, compared with 240 dinars (\$680) for a Christian. Indians and Bangladeshis are cheaper.

The biggest shortage at the moment is of Filipinos. The Manila government last year refused to send any more of its citizens because of complaints of mistreatment.

However some Filipinos are still being smuggled through third countries, servant agency workers say.

In prosperity and creativity, the Ottoman Jews came to rival those of Spain's golden age, which ended with the inquisition.

Most court physicians were Jews, and Jews brought the first printing press to the Ottoman empire from Europe.

ISTANBUL, Turkey — In 1492, the year Columbus sailed westward from Spain, that nation's Catholic rulers expelled its Jews. Many came east, to Turkey, where their descendants have lived in relative peace.

As several countries plan observances of the historic voyage 500 years ago, Turkey's Jews prepare to celebrate their own special anniversary and honour Bayezit II, the Muslim sultan who welcomed the Spanish outcasts.

About 26,000 Jews now live in Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation of 57 million.

Jak Kamhi, president of the Quincentennial Foundation, said the Jews want "to express our thanks for having found a safe haven and a lasting home here, and tell the world about Turkey." The foundation also has Muslim members.

An estimated 150,000 Jews arrived in Turkey from Spain. Bayezit is quoted as having said at the time: "The Catholic monarch Ferdinand was wrongly considered as wise, since he impoverished Spain by the expulsion of the Jews and enriched Turkey."

In 1492, the Ottoman Jews came to rival those of Spain's golden age, which ended with the inquisition.

Most court physicians were Jews, and Jews brought the first printing press to the Ottoman empire from Europe.

The foundation will organise and sponsor exhibitions, symposiums, film showings and performances of dance, folklore and theatre through 1992. Three concerts by the Israeli philharmonic are scheduled for July and August of the anniversary year.

Turkey was the only Muslim country to recognise Israel on its creation in 1948.

Sami Cohen, a prominent journalist, said the 500th anniversary celebration "is a milestone for the Jews, who ... are the descendants of the refugees who survived the inquisition by coming to Turkey."

"It is, likewise, a happy event for the Muslim Turks, whose ancestors offered them a safe haven and later absorbed them as equal citizens," he said.

Life in Turkey has not always been easy for Jews.

In the 1930s, there were anti-Jewish riots at Edirne, near the Bulgarian border. They and other minorities were subjected to heavy taxes in the early 1940s that ruined many families.

Two Arabic-speaking terrorists burst into Istanbul's Neve Shalom synagogue in 1986 and killed 22 worshippers.

Today, Jews worry about the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in this officially secular country, but feel the benefits of life in Turkey far outweigh the difficulties.

Turkish Jews and Muslims organised the Quincentennial Foundation of Istanbul in 1989 to prepare for the anniversary. The government has not contributed financially, but has expressed its support.

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Turkey had more than 100,000 Jews in the 1930s, including many who had fled the Nazis. The number dwindled with emigration in the late 1940s to Israel, Western Europe and the United States.

Community of Jews flourished in Anatolia, or Asia Minor, during the 1,000 years of Byzantine rule and continued to prosper after the Turkish conquest.

In more recent times, the Jews of Turkey were kept from harm during World War II and Turkish diplomats saved Jews in other countries. Turkey was neutral until February 1945, when it declared war on Germany.

Turkish Jews and Muslims organised the Quincentennial Foundation of Istanbul in 1989 to prepare for the anniversary. The government has not contributed financially, but has expressed its support.

Sex was a mystery to be solved by matrimony; we got married first and then lived together. After the wedding it was learning by doing. "Marriage itself was sexy," writes Michael J. Arlen, Harvard '52. "Imagine sharing your bed with a female every night!"

Some mothers dispensed a little sex instruction before the

ceremony; others left that to the bridegroom. The classic British mother is supposed to have told her daughter, "just close your eyes, dear, and think about England."

In my family, sex was too serious to discuss. To obtain a marriage license in Virginia you had to pass a Wasserman test proving you had no venereal diseases. Our wedding was almost derailed because my husband-to-be sent me a wisecracking telegram that was delivered by mistake to my father. I read: "How did you ever make out on your Wasserman test?" My father did not laugh.

But I side with Malcolm Muggeridge who said, "Sex is a funny thing and the older I get, the funnier it gets." You might as well laugh.

Laughing or not, my generation has zoomed with the speed of light from the era of the chaperone to the era of the pill.

Today it seems 5-year-olds know the correct word for everything. When my classmate spilled hot coffee in her lap, her little granddaughter lisped, "Gwanny, did you burn your waggins?"

A few years ago I had the word vagina deleted by an editor from a piece I published in The New York Times. Today

The Times reports on Madonna, the sexhibitionist, masturbating or simulating oral sex with a bottle of soda. Without batting an eye the newspaper quoted a female college student: "A year ago I wouldn't be caught dead with a condom, but now it's like an American Express card — you can't leave home without it."

Ricardo R. 12/12/91

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Aouita wins again

SAINT-DENIS, France (R) — World record holder Said Aouita consolidated his comeback with his second 1,500 metres win in a week. Aouita, who had surgery on the calf muscles of both legs in June last year, won in three minutes 37.71 seconds, ahead of Frenchman Pascal Thiebaut. "I am very happy," the Moroccan said. "This is even better than my four world records because it proves I'm coming back. At one stage, I lost confidence." Aouita returned to the winning track Monday with a morale-boosting victory at the Nice Grand Prix meeting. He said he had not yet decided whether he would run the 1,500 or the 5,000 metres at the World Championships in Tokyo next month. High jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba also showed some of his old form when he cleared 2.40 metres to equal the 1991 world best set by American Hollis Conway. He then failed in three attempts to set a new world mark of 2.45 metres, one centimetre above his current record.

Leroy Burrell has sore back

HOUSTON (AP) — Leroy Burrell, the world record-holder in the 100 metres, is suffering a sore back and a hamstring injury in his left leg, his coach says. University of Houston track coach Tom Tellez told the Houston Post that Burrell left the European circuit and returned to Houston Thursday to begin treatment. He went through some stretching exercises and light jogging Thursday and is day-to-day on his training status. "Burrell's leg is very tight and his back is bothering him a bit," Tellez said Thursday. "He just needs some rest and therapy, and hopefully he'll be all right." Burrell first began complaining about his back and leg after a July 12 meet in London, where he competed in the 200. On June 14, Burrell set a 9.90 world record in the 100 metres in the Athletics Congress National Championships.

Christie is back to his best

EDINBURGH (R) — European champion Linford Christie, who suffered his first 100 metres defeat of the season last Sunday, returned to winning form at an international meeting Friday. Christie, captaining Britain in a match against the Soviet Union, was out of his blocks quickly to resist another determined challenge from team mate Michael Rossness. He clocked 10.26 seconds and Rossness 10.30. Christie's latest victory wiped out the memory of finishing third at the Welsh games behind Americans James Trapp and Michael Bates, neither of whom made the final of last month's U.S. National Championships. Scot Yvonne Murray ran the world's fastest women's 3,000 metres of the year to score an enigmatic win over compatriot Liz McColligan. She clocked eight minutes 36.05 seconds to better the 8:38.23 McColligan recorded in Nice Monday.

Rourke dropped from French boxing bill

PARIS (R) — American film star Mickey Rourke will not make his second appearance as a professional boxer in France next month because he demanded too much, manager Jean-Christophe Courreges said Friday. Rourke, who made his debut last May, was due to appear on the undercard of a fight between former World super-middleweight champion Christophe Tizzio of France and American Kevin Watts on Aug. 2 in Cannes. Tizzio's manager Courreges said Rourke asked for \$60,000 and seven plane tickets. He also wanted to choose his opponent and his hotel and said he would not appear on television. "I simply could not accept such conditions because it would have been an insult for my boxers," Courreges said.

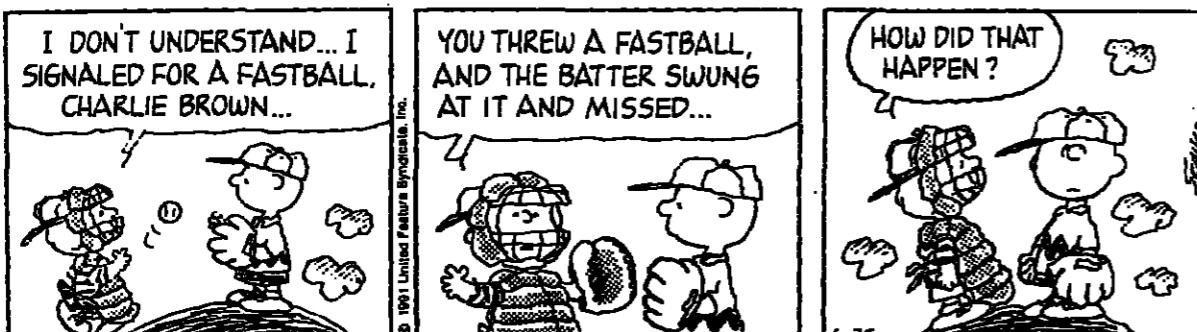
Albania lifts 28-year ban on boxing

TIRANA (R) — Albania has lifted a 28-year ban on boxing, outlawed after the sons of former Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha came home with bruises. Pavlo Dudi, head of the new Boxing Federation, said Friday the sport had been re-legalised by the minister for youth, culture and sports. Dudi said Hoxha, who ruled with an iron fist for 40 years, and his powerful wife Nekemtije banned boxing in 1963 after his two sons, both enthusiasts, came home from workouts with cuts and bruises on their faces. A number of leading Albanian boxers who protested against the decision were thrown into jail, one of them for more than 20 years.

Tigana will never play again

PARIS (R) — Jean Tigana, one of the great names of the past decade in French soccer, said Friday he had decided to retire. "I've had offers from (third division) Endoume, (second division) Bordeaux and other clubs but I will never play football again," Tigana said. Tigana, 35, was part of the magical French side who won the European Championship in 1984. He played last season for French champions Marseille but often had to stay on the substitutes' bench.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Al Wahdat tops premier League

By Ahmad Ismail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Wahdat grabbed the lead of the Premier League after beating Al Jazireh 2-0 Friday, in the 5th stage of the soccer competition.

Al Wahdat had everything under control from the beginning as Jihad Abdul Munem put them in the lead with the first goal in the third minute. Talal Rababa extended the score by hitting the second goal for Al Wahdat with a thrilling header in the 17th minute. Al Jazireh sought to narrow the margin in the second half but, failed in their efforts.

Al Faisali beat Al Jazireh 2-0 too in the 4th stage in one of their poorest performances.

Jamal Abu Abid converted in the 62th minute from a pass by his team-mate Subhi Sulaiman to give Al Faisali a late lead. Three minutes later, Khalid Awad led a fast offensive which clearly surprised the disorganized Al Jazireh to score the second goal.

Al Jazireh midfielder Tawfiq Al Sabiq led his team mates in the

attack during the last ten minutes as they tried to narrow the margin but failed to score.

Al Ahli dramatically improved their chances of advancing by shocking Al Ramtha 3-2 in their match at Al Hussein Sport City Thursday.

Al Ahli secured an early lead on a pair of goals set up by midfielder Abdul Razaq Kawash who put Al Ahli in the lead in the 4th minute with a breakaway goal.

Kawash scored again ten minutes later to make it 2-0 cashing in on Al Ramtha's defence errors. Nuri Yadaj calmly hit a low drive past the advancing Basam Al Bana to make it 3-0 in the 60th minute. But, Al Ramtha's Ratib Al Dawoud shot from outside the penalty area into the far corner of the goal to make it 3-1.

Badran Al Shaqrani netted Al Ramtha's second goal four minutes before the final whistle after a goalmouth scramble from a cross by his team-mate Hussein Al Shanaieh.

On Sunday, Al Ahli and Al Karmal will play the last match



Al Ahli goalkeeper Salameh Eid saves a ball during the match against Al Ramtha Thursday (photo by Abdullah Ayoub)

was sent off in the second half for aggressive play.

Al Wahdat, Al Karmal and Al Hussein have continued their winning runs after beating Al Arabi, Al Jeel and Al Qadissya respectively in the last stage.

On Sunday, Al Ahli and Al Karmal will play the last match

Italian wins 14th stage of Tour de France

CASTRES, France (AP) — Italian Bruno Cenghialta won the 14th stage of the Tour de France Saturday, breaking away from a small group of five as the race returned to the flatlands.

Spain's Miguel Indurain retained the overall lead, finishing in the main pack about 1 minute, 35 seconds behind Cenghialta.

Charly Mottet of France was still second overall, with Italians Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci third and fourth.

Three-time champion Greg Lemond remained fifth, 5:08 behind Indurain.

The day's leg was a 172-kilometre stretch through the rolling fields in southern France after Friday's stage that it already was too late for Lemond.

Some of his competitors felt

after Friday's stage that it

already was too late for Lemond.

from St. Gaudens to Castres. The riders recuperated after their two tough mountain stages in the Pyrenees which shook up the standings.

Lemond, the defending champion, went in 48 hours from a strong position atop the field to fifth place and struggling.

"It's not finished," he said, clearly disappointed, after Friday's stage. "There is still more than a week to go."

There are eight stages remaining, with two moderate mountain days in the Alps next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Some of his competitors felt

after Friday's stage that it

already was too late for Lemond.

Agassi reaches Washington semis

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seeded Andre Agassi saved two set points in the opening set and went on to beat Swede Johan Carlsson 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the \$600,000 Washington Classic Tennis Tournament.

Leading 5-4, Carlsson, ranked number 205 in the world, had double set point at 15-40 on Agassi's serve.

The defending champion saved the first with a winning forehand volley and escaped the next on a Carlsson backhand error.

"Mentally, I hung in there," said the American star, who has

been the French Open runner-up in the last two years. "I got lucky on that first set point (against me), and then pulled it together quite well."

A pair of American seeds, number three Brad Gilbert and number four Richey Reneberg, were upset, however.

Sixth seeded Jaime Zgaga of Peru ousted an error-prone Reneberg 6-3, 6-4 to gain a semifinal berth against Agassi.

"Richey didn't have a good day, he rushed too much and tried to win points too fast," said Zgaga, number 44 in the world.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 5-9



"I don't like the padded shoulders. I'm afraid you're going to tackle me."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO WIN A BOARD?

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Financial Markets **Jordan Times**
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank



U.S. Dollars in International Markets		New York Close	New York Close
Currency		Date 18/7/1991	Date 19/7/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6655	1.6945	
Deutsche Mark	1.7745	1.7745	
Swiss Franc	1.5400	1.5115	
French Franc	6.0230	5.9315	
Japanese Yen	137.65	136.40	
European Currency Unit	1.1553 **	1.1765	

USD Per SGD

European Opening = 1000 p.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
		Date: 19/7/1991			
Currency		1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar		5.57	6.00	6.25	6.82
Sterling Pound		10.81	10.81	10.88	10.88
Deutsche Mark		8.81	9.09	9.25	9.43
Swiss Franc		7.75	7.87	7.87	7.75
French Franc		9.12	9.18	9.05	9.48
Japanese Yen		7.37	7.26	7.31	7.21
European Currency Unit		9.02	9.68	9.90	9.67

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 U.S. Dollars or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 19/7/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD Gm
Gold	370.65	7.10	Silver	4.40	.40

24 karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 20/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.85	.88
Sterling Pound	1.1592	1.1650
Deutsche Mark	.3917	.3937
Swiss Franc	.4526	.4549
French Franc	.7155	.7159
Japanese Yen	.5018	.5043
Dutch Guilder	.3477	.3494
Swedish Krona	.1074	.1079
Italian Lira	.0526	.0529
Belgian Franc	.01903	.01913

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7600	1.7900
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1825	.1830
Kuwait Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.7900	.2025
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7900
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.4200

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	10/7/1991	Close	17/7/1991	Close
All-Share	110.24	112.04		
Banking Sector	105.32	107.02		
Insurance Sector	118.87	120.19		
Industry Sector	115.00	117.07		
Services Sector	126.55	127.78		

December 31, 1990 100

IBM reports plunge in earnings, to trim workforce

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM), the world's biggest computer maker, said Friday that it suffered a 92 per cent drop in profits for the second quarter and plans to cut its global workforce by 17,000.

IBM said it earned \$114 million in the second quarter of 1991, equivalent to 20 cents a share, compared with \$1.41 billion or \$2.45 a share for the same period in 1990.

The company said 1991 may mark the first year since 1946 that IBM did not post revenue growth.

It said it would reduce its worldwide workforce by at least 17,000 employees this year. It said all the cuts will be voluntary. The cut represents almost five per cent of the company's 373,000 workers worldwide.

Egypt reschedules \$5 b remaining debt to United States

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has rescheduled its last remaining debt of \$5 billion to the United States, officials said Saturday.

Hassan Selim, undersecretary at the ministry of international cooperation, signed an agreement in Washington Friday, the ministry said.

The daily Al Ahram newspaper said that terms for the agreement allowed Egypt four years grace from repaying the debt, ten years grace from repaying the principal, and concessional interest rates varying between 2.8 and three per cent.

The debt is Egypt's last remaining to the United States after Washington forgave \$7 billion of military debt during the Gulf crisis, when Cairo played a leading role in the U.S.-led alliance which drove Iraq out of Kuwait in February.

It was rescheduled over 20 years.

French inflation rate falls to 3.3 per cent

PARIS (R) — French year-on-year inflation in June fell below that of Germany for the first time since 1973, symbolically capping three years of tough policies under Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy to reduce the cost of living.

In the 12 months to June, French consumer prices rose 3.3 per cent, the national statistics office INSEE has said. German prices rose 3.5 per cent in the same period.

Mr. Beregovoy's campaign to strengthen the franc and break France's reputation for high inflation has been fought on tight money and budgetary policies that earned him praise from financial traders. Some critics on the French left have accused him of deserting his socialist principles.

But France's victory over Germany to become the "good pupil in inflation" has also been helped by Bonn's need to rebuild its eastern states following German

unification last year.

Reconstruction in what

used to be communist East Germany has unleashed demands for vast amounts of investment

money. German inflation is set to

jump to four per cent this month due to higher fuel and other taxes

pay for the rebuilding effort.

Economists said France, where

they predict annual inflation to

fall to 2.8 per cent or less by the

end of the year, could stay ahead

in the cost of living race for the

next two years.

Financial markets are speculating

that the widely anticipated

news from INSEE might encourage

the Bank of France to make a

small cut in interest rates next

week.

Prime Minister Edith Cresson

is keen to ease borrowing costs

for French businesses struggling

to cope with a stalled economy.

French property rates and unem-

ployment are among the highest

in the industrial world.

blackmailed by Mr. Papandreou to give him money or go to jail.

He accused the former premier of instigating a scheme to deposit state funds at the Bank of Crete and then skim off millions of dollars in interest.

He alleges the cash went to Mr. Papandreou, often delivered to him in happy boxes, and other members of Pasok.

"In June 1988 state auditors came to the Bank of Crete to look into its transactions. I was very nervous and called Mr. Papandreou telling him that if the auditors checked the books the embezzlement would be revealed immediately," Mr. Koskotas said.

"Don't worry," he told me. "As long as I am prime minister no checking will take place." Indeed, a short while after the auditors left without looking into the bank's transactions, he added.

Mr. Koskotas produced what he claimed was a handwritten note by Mr. Papandreou asking him to deposit \$8 million at a London bank.

"The money, which came from the Bank of Crete, was converted from drachmas to dollars and deposited in London in September. You only have to ask the bank to see that what I am saying is true," he added.

Mr. Koskotas said the transaction was made through Marcel Sanders, an associate of Mr. Papandreou in Brussels, and claimed the two men were involved in illegal arms sales worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

He presented to the court company accounts from around the world which he said were controlled by Mr. Papandreou or his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and in which the money from the arms deals was deposited through Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Koskotas, 38, rose from bank clerk to finance and media tycoon during the years of socialist rule. He has said he was

involved in illegal arms sales worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

better results were expected in

1991 because Saudi Cable had

earned 18.1 million riyals (\$4.8 million) in net profit during the

first five months of 1991 alone.

The company is owned by shareholders in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Export orders grew to 370 million riyals (\$99 million) in 1990 from 317 million riyals (\$84.5 million) in 1989. Fawaz Al Alami, executive vice-president, told Reuters by telephone.

But he said the firm lost 250 million riyals (\$66.7 million) of confirmed orders from Iraq and Kuwait which would have earned 40 million riyals (\$10.6 million) in profit.

No 1990 dividend would be distributed to shareholders against a 13.5 million riyal (\$3.6 million) dividend in 1989, the report said.

A company spokesman said

Abu Dhabi government attacks unjustified closure of BCCI

LONDON (Agencies) — The government of Abu Dhabi placed a full-page newspaper advertisement Friday criticising the Bank of England and other institutions for their "unjustified action" in closing the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

The statement from the majority shareholders said that if a restructuring plan for BCCI had been allowed to proceed, "no depositors' money would have been lost."

The shareholders' statement said: "The action taken on 5th July has resulted in severe problems, including financial hardship in many cases, for more than one and a quarter million depositors of the group worldwide and some 12,000 staff are likely to lose their jobs."

Bush supports sanctions on Burma

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Calling Burma "a hell for human rights," a U.S. senator announced that U.S. President George Bush has decided to impose economic sanctions against the military-run South East Asian nation.

"This action will again affirm that the people of the United States stand together with the Burmese people, and against the brutal dictatorship that enslaves them," Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said in a statement received Saturday.

In his statement to the U.S. Senate, Sen. Moynihan also lauded opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who Saturday began her third year under house arrest in the Burmese capital Rangoon.

Mrs. Suu Kyi has become the symbol of Burma's democracy movement, which was brutally crushed in 1988 by a military junta which has since ruled the country with an iron hand. Thousands of protesters were killed in the crackdown.

Sen. Moynihan sponsored a section of the U.S. customs and trade act of 1990 which required the U.S. president to impose sanctions against Burma if certain conditions were not met by that country.

These conditions include cooperation in efforts to curb the heroin and opium trade, the release of political prisoners, the end of martial law and the transfer to power by the military to a civilian government.

The U.S. State Department has estimated some 2,000 Burmese have been detained for political reasons.

Rangoon residents say Mrs. Suu Kyi, the daughter of Aung San, the legendary hero of Burma's independence struggle against Britain, lives a spartan life and is not allowed visitors to her home on University Avenue in Rangoon.

Mrs. Suu Kyi, 46, was swept into prominence during the nationwide pro-democracy uprising in 1988. The nation of 41 million has been ruled by the military since it overthrew a civilian government in 1962.

To placate an angry populace, the military rulers allowed the formation of political parties and announced elections would be held. Although she was barred from running herself, Mrs. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy swept the May 1989 elections.

But the junta has refused to hand power to the winners, a number of whom have been imprisoned or forced to flee the country.

"She is a leader of such power and force that the Burmese military dictatorship remains so afraid of her that she has been silenced for two years," Sen. Moynihan said in his Friday statement.

Sen. Moynihan said he had been notified by the U.S. State Department that the Bush administration has decided to implement economic sanctions against Burma. His statement did not say when the sanctions would be imposed.

The State Department could not be immediately reached for details.

"The U.S. market will not remain open to Burma as long as it remains a hell for human rights," he said.

Sen. Moynihan said the State Department listed the refusal to renew a bilateral textile agreement with Burma as the first sanction that would be imposed. Of Burma's \$22 million in exports to the United States in 1990, textiles accounted for \$9 million.

Sen. Moynihan said the State Department has assured him it would continue to urge other countries to impose economic sanctions. The United States and the European Community already have an arms embargo on Burma.

The senator, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, said the U.S. Congress would continue to work to increase pressure on the Burmese regime.

He said there were plans to "shame the dictators of Burma before the entire world community" at the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly this fall.

Western diplomats in Bangkok and elsewhere have mentioned the possibility of a debate over Burma's seat in the United Nations during the fall session of the General Assembly. Economic sanctions against Burma may also be proposed.

Probably the leading critic of the Burmese military in Washington, Sen. Moynihan said Mrs. Suu Kyi was the "embodiment of the struggle of the Burmese people to end three decades of military repression."

Buthelezi has no plans for alliance with NP

S. Africa admits funding Inkatha

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Black leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi insisted Saturday his Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) had no plans to form an alliance with the governing National Party (NP), a day after the government disclosed it funded some Inkatha events.

Dr. Buthelezi opened Inkatha's annual conference with a 10-page speech that did not directly mention Friday's embarrassing disclosure and even included mild criticism of the government.

The government confirmed Friday it helped pay for two Inkatha rallies more than 15 months ago as part of a covert campaign to fight international sanctions against South Africa.

African National Congress President Nelson Mandela said the development put the ANC and government on a "collision course" and raised the possibility of a complete breakdown in their relations.

Also Friday, the pro-ANC newspaper New Nation reported that special forces of the South African military carried out attacks on blacks intended to destabilise the opposition movement.

Dr. Buthelezi meets regularly with government officials and there have been hints of a possible political alliance between Inkatha and President F.W. de Klerk's National Party against the ANC.

The disclosure of government funding for Inkatha events, along with the New Nation report, increased tension between the ANC and government at a critical

time. The ANC last month elected a relatively moderate top leadership known to favour negotiations with the government on a new constitution ending white-minority rule. But it has made clear it will not start negotiations until it is satisfied the government is doing everything possible to end political violence.

"The ANC and the government clearly are on a collision course, and if the government continues with these criminal operations, it is doubtful we can avoid a complete breakdown in relations," Mr. Mandela told reporters Friday night.

The Saturday Star newspaper, which is neither radically pro-government or pro-ANC, called the latest developments "devastating."

"Using taxpayers' money to promote clandestinely a controversial extra-parliamentary political movement clearly linked to violence is politically and morally indefensible," it said.

The ANC reiterated calls for the resignations of Mr. Vlok and Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who head the police and military. The anti-apartheid Democratic Party demanded Mr. Vlok and Mr. Buthelezi resign.

"This is an open and shut case of political corruption," said Dave Dalling, the white Democratic Party's justice spokesman.

Mr. Vlok said the government funded two Inkatha gatherings, in November 1989 and in March 1990, with money earmarked for secret campaigns to combat inter-



Mangosuthu Buthelezi

national sanctions against South Africa.

"This funding was under no circumstances aimed at promoting partiality or political activism of any particular group," Mr. Vlok's statement said. "The funds were ... used for the following purposes: Visual anti-sanctions banners, advertisements, transport, hire of stadiums and other facilities."

De Klerk said the matter occurred prior to policy changes regarding secret funds and projects he announced in March 1990, a month after he legalised the ANC and other opposition groups and freed Mr. Mandela from prison.

Gandhi murder case suspect found hanged

MADRAS, India (Agencies) — A key suspect in the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi escaped from custody and was found hanged from a tree on Saturday, a top investigator said.

N. Shanmugam, who was questioned by police in southern Tamil Nadu state over Gandhi's killing by a woman suicide-bomber, escaped from a tourist bungalow Friday when a policeman escorted him outside to wash his hands, the official said.

Shanmugam was flown to his home village of Kodiyakadu after his arrest Wednesday to show police hidden stores of explosives and field radios, said the official with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the assassination.

Police earlier said they had found more than 100 boxes of explosives and high frequency radios that Shanmugam was alleged to have hidden in the jungle at Vedaranayam, about 500 kilometres from the Tamil Nadu capital Madras.

Police had charged Shanmugam with smuggling weapons for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lankan guerrilla group. Indian officials suspect the Tigers killed Gandhi but the LTTE has denied the accusation.

Indian authorities have so far arrested 14 people — Shanmugam was the last — in connection with the assassination. All are Tamils and more than half are from Sri Lanka, where the LTTE is fighting for an independent Tamil state.

Impressed by his behaviour and eagerness to help, police provided only a small escort when Shanmugam was taken to the bungalow in Kodiyakadu and did not handcuff him.

Some villagers spotted the body of Sergei Grichenko floating in the Burinding River Thursday, United News of India and Press Trust of India said.

The villagers told the police, who then fished out the body, the two news agencies said. United News had earlier said the discovery was made by navy divers.

U.S. files list 3 men in photo as dead — Hanoi

HANOI (R) — U.S. files listed as dead two American airmen who crashed in Laos during the Vietnam War but were said this week to have shown up alive in a photograph, the Hanoi government said Saturday.

Minister of State for National Security Sydney Sekeramai said in a statement the explosion on the ground floor of the government-owned Sheraton Hotel was caused by a bomb.

He said it was under investigation and would not speculate on the reason for the blast. No-one has claimed responsibility.

The blast occurred shortly after midnight in a corridor leading from the ground-floor lobby to the main restaurants of the 17-storey hotel, which adjoins Zimbabwe's International Conference Centre.

"There is extensive damage in the lobby but none of the rooms are damaged," General Manager Robert Barsby said.

"It caused most damage to the three mezzanine floors and consequently the hotel is temporarily closed," he said.

Hotel guests were evacuated to other hotels in the city and the Sheraton was temporarily closed until clean-up operations were completed.

The hotel and the Harare International Conference Centre were built by Yugoslav contractors for the 1986 non-aligned summit and will be used for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting.

Mr. Barsby said he could not say how the explosion would affect the hotel but it had obvious security implications for the Commonwealth conference.

Police were not sure if he was murdered or committed suicide, the SIT official said.

They said that Shanmugam told them that he feared he and his relatives might be killed if he revealed his links to the LTTE and its hideouts in Tamil Nadu, where there is strong sympathy for the Tamil campaign in Sri Lanka.

Police have launched one of the largest manhunts in India for a suspected mastermind in the case, a one-eyed LTTE rebel called Sivarasan, believed to be hiding out somewhere in India.

Police said Shanmugam had assisted Sivarasan and Thana, the woman police believe blew up Gandhi at an election rally near Madras on May 21.

Investigators say the Tigers organised Gandhi's assassination because the group feared his return to power after a general election in May and June.

In 1987, Gandhi sent troops to Sri Lanka to enforce a peace agreement he brokered between the Tigers and Colombo.

The Tigers refused to lay down their arms as stipulated in the pact and the Indian troops ended up fighting them until 1990, when the Colombo government insisted they leave.

Meanwhile police have recovered from a river the body of a Soviet mining expert who was kidnapped and killed by separatist rebels in remote Assam state, news reports said Friday.

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COLUMN 10

Zhivkov's daughter 'committed suicide'

SOFIA (R) — The politically powerful daughter of disgraced Bulgarian Communist leader Todor Zhivkov did not die of natural causes as officially reported but committed suicide, her former bodyguard was quoted as saying.

Lydilma Zhivkov, who was in charge of culture and also held important posts in the Communist Party during her father's 35-year rule, was officially said to have died of a brain haemorrhage in 1981. But Dimiter Moudjiev, her bodyguard for the last seven years of her life, was quoted by the newspaper Troud as saying she committed suicide by taking an overdose of sleeping pills.

Mr. Moudjiev said that in the last months of her life Ms. Zhivkov was in a state of deep depression caused by political, personal and health problems. On July 20, 1981 she suddenly left the Borovets Mountain resort where she was undergoing treatment for an undisclosed medical problem and went to the state residence at Boyana, near Sofia, where she took the overdose, he said. There was speculation after her death that she had been killed by political rivals jealous of her power and her hold over her father, who was ousted in 1989.

Pele promotes 1992 environment summit

UNITED NATIONS (R) — World soccer star Pele, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, was named goodwill ambassador for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The retd Brazilian player told a news conference he would travel the world to promote the conference, called Earth Summit, the first of its kind convened at the head of state or government level.

The summit, scheduled for Rio De Janeiro on June 1-12 next year, has extended invitations to 160 leaders.

Organisers said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, British Prime Minister John Major and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had indicated they would attend. Pele played in four World Cups, three of which were won by his team. He has made several films and is the author of a number of books. He won the 1978 International Peace Award and was named sportsman of the century in 1980.

Cameroon police free 'sprinting corps'

YAOUNDE, (R) — A Cameroonian protester dubbed the "sprinting corps" was released after police dropped charges against him of faking death. Abel Biyaga's lifeless frame was carted around the port of Douala by anti-government marchers who accused the police of killing him. But when police fired into the air, Biyaga sprang into life and dashed away with the crowd. He was later arrested and faced trial along with a minor opposition leader who had pushed the cart. Biyaga claimed that he had been knocked out by tear gas and both men were freed.

The draft of the letter did not say when Washington had given the files to Hanoi. The files appeared to concern joint investigation with U.S. experts last year on Robertson as saying Hanoi had determined he was killed and his remains mostly destroyed when his plane went down Sept. 16, 1966.

His co-pilot in that raid on the Red River Delta, Hubert Buchanan, parachuted safely to the ground, was captured by the Vietnamese and was released later to the United States.

The U.S. Department of Defense said Friday it was also concluded Robertson was dead. But it has also said it is taking the photograph very seriously.

"Vietnam reiterates that all American prisoners of war captured in the Vietnam War were returned to the U.S. government after the (1973) Paris agreement on Vietnam," Hanoi's letter said.

The letter, dated July 19, said the United States had placed Robertson's name on a priority list of servicemen whose fates remained unknown when the war ended in 1975 and that Hanoi had actively cooperated in the search.

"According to the files given to Vietnam by the U.S. side, Albro Lynn Lundy and Larry James Stevens are those American

pilots who were shot down in Laos in 1966 and 1969, and mentioned in the list of killed," Hanoi's letter said.

"The news of Robertson being alive is groundless," it said further on.

"Vietnam is ready to cooperate with the United States to make clear the matters relating to the photograph," the letter said.

It quoted a Vietnamese government file on a joint investigation with U.S. experts last year on Robertson as saying Hanoi had determined he was killed and his remains mostly destroyed when his plane went down Sept. 16, 1966.

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Yeltsin challenges Communists with ban on political parties

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin challenged Communist Party power Saturday by banning organised political activity in the state sector of his republic, the Soviet Union's big gest.

The Soviet Communist Party maintains political cells in virtually all major state enterprises and in the armed forces.

"President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree putting an end to the activities of organised structures of political parties and mass social movements in state organs, institutions and organisations in the Russian Federation," the Russian Information Agency (RIA) said.

RIA said the decree would come into effect 14 days after its publication.

Mr. Yeltsin, who left the Communist Party last year and was sworn in this month as Russia's first executive president, said in his decree political activity would

some 17 million members and remains the country's most powerful political organisation but its ranks are split between conservatives and liberals.

The divisions are likely to come to a head at a plenary meeting of the Central Committee Thursday.

Moscow, Peking to recognise Cambodia's SNC

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The Soviet Union and China are almost in total agreement on Cambodia and will soon recognise the country's newly-formed Supreme National Council (SNC), a senior Soviet official said Saturday.

"A year ago there were differences, now I think we are about the same position," said Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev after talks between Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Masly